

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOL 01293 021029Z

17

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 /070 W

----- 048358

R 020645Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1738

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR LY

SUBJECT: QADHAFI'S LATEST UNITY OFFENSIVE

1. PARTY DELEGATIONS WHICH QADHAFI "SUGGESTED" AT RECENT LIBYAN ASU CONGRESS BE SENT FORTH TO EGYPT,

SYRIA, AND TUNISIA TO URGE MOVEMENT TOWARD UNITY HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY SADAT AND BOURGUIBA. LIBYAN PRESS ACCOUNTS OF MEETINGS ARE ENTHUSIASTIC, AND PREDICTABLY ASSERT THAT DELEGATIONS GOT FAVORABLE HEARINGS. SADAT IS QUOTED AS HAVING TOLD ASU DELEGATION THAT "NEXT FEW DAYS WILL SEE TANGIBLE IMPROVEMENT" IN LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS.

BOURGUIBA REPORTEDLY SAID THAT RAPID "STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN" TO IMPLEMENT DJERBA UNITY DECLARATION, ADDING, "WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT AMENDING THE TUNISIAN CONSTITUTION BY INTRODUCING THE PRINCIPLE OF A PLEBISCITE IN ORDER TO PREPARE THE IMPLEMENTA-
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PAGE 02 TRIPOL 01293 021029Z

TION OF THE HISTORIC DJERBA DECLARATION". (IT WILL

BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER THIS ALLEGED STATEMENT
IS ALSO REPORTED BY TUNISIAN PRESS.)

2. SECOND PRONG OF LIBYAN OFFENSIVE INVOLVES THE
DORMANT EGYPT-SYRIA-LIBYA "FEDERAL STATE", OR
"CONFEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLICS", SET UP AT
QADHAFI'S INSISTENCE IN 1971, WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN
FORMALLY DISAVOWED BY ANY OF THREE PARTNERS, AS FAR
AS WE KNOW. BASHIR RUBTI, HEAD OF SOMETHING CALLED
THE FEDERAL COUNCIL, HAS BEEN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
SADAT IN CAIRO (TRIPOLI 1280 NOTAL), AND ACCORDING
TO PRESS IS TO GO ON TO DAMASCUS FOR MEETING WITH
AL-ASAD. RABTI OBVIOUSLY HAS LIBYAN BACKING FOR HIS
ACTIVITIES. ON HIS RETURN TO TRIPOLI NOV. 30, HE
SAID HE HAD HELD "NUMEROUS MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT
SADAT LAST WEEK WITH AIM OF CONVENING THE PRESIDENCY
OF THE FEDERAL STATE". (THIS IS COMPOSED OF CHIEFS
OF STATE OF THREE COUNTRIES.) RABTI SAID HE HAD
"GREAT HOPES THAT THERE WILL BE MEETING OF THE THREE
PRESIDENTS SOON".
STEIN

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